

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1589

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

WMEMBASSY WARSAW 2026

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10426

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH,UR

SOBJ: SOVIET REACTION TO CHINESE PARTY CONGRESS

1. SOVIET MEDIA CARRIED BRIEF REPORTS AUGUST 30 OF
CCP TENTH CONGRESS BASED ON COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWED ON
AUGUST 31 B ROUNDUP OF FOREIGN REACTION. SOVIETS
HAVE AS YET ORIGINATED NO COMMENT OF THEIR OWN.
FOREIGN COMMENT SUMMARIZED IN PRAVDA IS PREDICTABLY
ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, RANGING FROM PRAGUE RUDE PRAVE
ASSERTION THAT CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAS BROKEN WITH
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OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND INTER-

NATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT TO AMERICAN COMMENTARY THAT PERSONNEL CHANGES REPRESENT COMPROMISE WITHIN LEADERSHIP. L'HUMANITE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT USSR REMAINS NUMBER ONE ENEMY, WITH NO CHANGE IN PRC POLICY OF ANTI-SOVIETISM.

2. SOVIET MFA AND ACADEMIC CHINA SPECIALISTS ATTENDING AMEMBASSY RECEPTION AUGUST 30 AGREED THAT CHOU EN-LAI HAD EMERGED IN CONTROL - AN OUTCOME ONE SPECIALIST FELT WAS NEVER IN DOUBT. (THIS CONTRASTS WITH SPATE OF RECENT SOVIET PROPAGANDA CONCERNING INTERNAL STRUGGLE IN CHINA.) AN ACADEMIC SPECIALIST OUTSIDE THE CHINA FIELD WITH CLOSE TIES TO CPSU BUREAUCRACY SAID SOVIETS CONTINUED TO REGARD CHOU AS PRAGMATIC LEADER AND IMPLIED THEY WOULD PREFER HIM TO UNKNOWN QUANTITY. SINOLOGISTS IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS INDICATED STRONG INTEREST IN QUESTION OF WHO WOULD BE NAMED GENERAL SECRETARY OF CCP. THEY RECALLED THAT TENG HSIAO-PING HAD BEEN GIVEN THIS POSITION AFTER DELIVERING REPORT TO PREVIOUS PARTY CONGRESS, AND SPECULATED THAT WANG HUNG-WEN WAS NOW IN LINE FOR THE JOB SINCE HE DELIVERED THE REPORT. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WAS CHANG CH'UN-CH'IAO.

3. SOVIET SPECIALISTS MADE SPECIAL POINT OF NOTING THAT BOTH US AND USSR WERE IDENTIFIED AS SUPERPOWERS AGAINST WHOM CCP MUST CONTINUE STRUGGLE. THEIR PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS WAS THAT ANTI-SOVIET ASPECTS OF CONGRESS WERE AT LOWER END OF SPECTRUM THAT MIGHT BE ANTICIPATED IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY CONCURRED WITH OUR SUGGESTION THAT FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES DID NOT APPEAR IMMINENT AS RESULT OF CONGRESS.

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